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## The President's Forum with Young African Leaders

Just weeks after Mozambique celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence, the U.S. Embassy selected Paulo Araujo, Nadja Gomes, and Quiteria Guirengane to participate in the Presidential Forum with Young African Leaders in Washington, DC August 3-5. The forum coincided with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence for 17 African countries and provided an opportunity for 115 emerging non-governmental leaders from over 40 African nations to network with American and African peers, to participate in meetings with high-level American officials including President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, and to forge a vision of Africa for the next fifty years.

The delegates displayed their leadership skills before departing for the forum by leading a session with 20 Mozambican youth and civil society leaders organized by U.S. Embassy Public Affairs with the goal of constructing a broader vision for Mozambique and Africa to articulate in Washington, DC. They also distinguished themselves among their peers with leadership roles at the Forum. Quiteria Guirengane, of Parlamento Juvenil, was one of only two African delegates invited to speak at the Department of State's Opening Plenary Session with Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson. Gomes, of Liga dos Direitos Humanos, led a panel discussion on human rights and NGO/law enforcement collaboration with the Department of State's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and was selected to personally direct a question on

governance President Barack Obama during the Town Hall event. Finally, Paulo Araujo, of Associação Mocambicana para o Desenvolvimento do Voluntariado em Moçambique, participated in a panel discussion on volunteerism during a session with Peace Corps.

The delegates have also distinguished themselves and their organizations since their return, leading an event with over 60 academics, civil society representatives, journalists, and students at the home of U.S. Ambassador Leslie Rowe. They participated in events at Universidade Mussa bin Bique, Universidade Lurio, Universidade Católica, and with Access English Microscholarship Students in Nampula.

All three have actively engaged the media throughout the process.

Most importantly, the events have demonstrated the tremendous level of enthusiasm, engagement, and potential of Mozambique's youth as well as the benefits of continued debate and collaboration. And the reaction of the Mozambican youth they have engaged has left everyone with heightened sense of the potential of youth here to shape the future of their country.



## Message from the Ambassador



Leslie V. Rowe

Recent events have given me the chance for both positive and poignant reflection. On behalf of the American people and our government, I would like to express our sincere regret at the losses of life that occurred during the first week of September, and our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those lost or injured.

These events highlight the importance of ongoing dialogue and understanding between citizens and their governments, and the necessity of a strong civil society in all nations. They also underscore the ongoing opportunities for partnership in strengthening Mozambique's economic and democratic development. The United States will continue in our commitment to the Mozambican people and government in efforts to fight poverty and strengthen democracy. At the same time, the past couple of months have been momentous for the U.S.-Mozambican relationship on many fronts. In August we completed a large-scale joint military

exercise, involving over 1700 members of our two militaries which successfully allowed us to share knowledge and build partnership. We signed the Partnership Framework with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which represents a holistic approach to U.S.-Mozambican cooperation in the area of HIV/AIDS, particularly focused on developing strong Mozambican capability to lead these efforts here. This Framework will benefit hundreds of thousands of Mozambicans over the next four years. Three young Mozambican civil society leaders met with President Obama at the White House to talk about the future of Mozambique and Africa, and we sent 10 Mozambican youth to the U.S. for a year to study and live in American families, and groups of Americans participated in various academic and professional exchanges. A world-class jazz quartet, Nasar Abadey and SUPERNOVA, will conduct concerts and workshops in Maputo and Beira, and will launch as a beautiful art exhibit showcasing Mozambican talent. These few examples begin to demonstrate the vibrancy of our relationship with Mozambique, and our interest in genuinely building mutual understanding and collaboration.

*Leslie Rowe*

# EXERCISE SHARED ACCORD 2010

## US MARINE FORCE AND MOZAMBIKAN SOLDIERS STAGE JOINT EXERCISE

From August 3-13, 2010, members of the Mozambican and U.S. militaries participated in a landmark joint military exercise, Exercise Shared Accord 2010. Shared Accord is an annually-scheduled, joint military exercise designed to improve interoperability and mutual understanding of each nation's military tactics, techniques and procedures. This year the exercise took place between the armed forces of the United States and Mozambique, and had a particular focus on peacekeeping exercises and humanitarian and community engagement. Previously, Shared Accord has taken place in locations such as Benin, Ghana, and Senegal. The overarching



goal of Exercise Shared Accord 2010 was to develop joint and combined training opportunities, and to develop a lasting relationship between members of the Mozambican and U.S. militaries.

"This exercise is part of a solid, long-term, multi-faceted partnership between the U.S. and Mozambican militaries," said Lt. Col. Andrew Olson, defense attaché at the U.S. Embassy at the official press conference. "Hundreds of members of both our armed forces will participate together in various types of military training, including command post, live-fire training, and peace operations, as well as sharing their experience . . . We are confident that this exercise will help develop Mozambique's capabilities to offer additional security for its neighbors, keep Mozambique itself more free from threats to its own security, such as illegal fishing, trafficking in drugs or other illegal activities, or even the threat of piracy, and enhance its ability to effectively fight against poverty here at home." While Exercise Shared Accord occurs annually, a unique aspect of the collaboration with Mozambique was the scale of the activity. With 700 U.S. soldiers and over 1000 Mozambicans, the Exercise ranked as the largest joint military exercise south of the equator since World War II. And the participants on both sides had experiences that will remain in their memories for a lifetime.

Shared Accord 2010 was a U.S. Africa Command-sponsored exercise that focused on priorities identified by Mozambique, including various types of joint military training, including command post, live-fire training and conducting stability and peace operations. In addition, the troops jointly provided free medical and dental care to over 2000 local residents in and around the communities of Moamba, Tenga, and Sabie, and rehabilitated two schools during the course of the 10-day exercise. Purified water, which was generated to support participants of the exercise, was also shared with the communities, with over 50,000 liters distributed prior to the conclusion of the activities. A Marine Corps brass jazz band, playing music New Orleans-style, entertained thousands of children at elementary and secondary schools in Maputo Province, including a couple of songs they learned especially for this visit, filling every available space with singing and dancing children. Watching Mozambican and American soldiers train together, share experiences and laughs, as well as demonstrate their newly-learned skills impressed more than 40 journalists who attended the activities during the 10-day exercise. A Mozambican soldier set an exercise record on a challenging strength portion of the field combat fitness test, and the press could feel the palpable enthusiasm and interest of the American soldiers as they got first-hand looks at aspects of Mozambican culture for the first time. "I'm unbelievably excited," said Col. Burke W. Whitman, commanding officer of the joint task force during a meeting with exercise participants. "We have Army, Navy, Air Force and civilians from the Department of Defense (involved). This is very much a joint task force effort to conduct a combined exercise with our



friends from Mozambique . . . There is nothing more important than what we're doing for national defense and national security than this. It is a priority for the Department of State, and a major priority of the current secretary of state, the president and their predecessors."



## EXERCISE SHARED ACCORD 2010

Leslie Rowe, the U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique, stressed that the training and partnership that will result from this



exercise will benefit the overall peacekeeping mission of the Mozambican military. "You have so much to give to the Mozambican military in terms of your professional expertise and the technical aspects of training for peacekeeping" said Rowe. "The Mozambican military has a tremendous amount to give to you with their experience of operating on the ground and the realities of doing military operations in Mozambique and in Africa."

When the final U.S. troops departed Mozambique, sentiments were overwhelmingly positive. Sergeant Lydia Davey had the following to say, "I thought I knew what to expect from the continent of Africa. Granted, my feet have only touched soil in seven countries here, but somehow I felt that I had it all figured out. However, Mozambique is full of surprises and newness . . . It didn't matter that I don't understand Portuguese, or that they might not speak English. We all had the same mission and a similar understanding of the courtesy and effort required to make that mission successful."



## Rural Water Point Installation

Rural water supply is one of the main components of the Government of Mozambique's efforts to eradicate poverty. To in achieving this objective, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, a U.S. government foreign aid agency operating within a \$509 million agreement with the Mozambican government, has funded the Rural Water Point Installation Program. This project will improve the rural water supply situation by implementing 600 rural water points in the Northern provinces of Nampula and Cabo Delgado, which have the lowest rural water supply coverage in the country. The technology adopted is a borehole equipped with a hand pump that can be maintained and operated at the village level.

As part of the Mozambican government's approach for rural water supply in targeted districts and villages, communities are involved at all levels of decision-making concerning their water supply and sanitation services. A critical component of the process is that before any construction activities occur, the community must show that it has the capacity to organize itself through the creation of a functioning Water Committee and that it has the capacity to

collect funds for Operation and Maintenance by collecting 2,500MT Mozambican Meticaís (about US\$70) to be given to the construction contractor as a contribution towards the purchase of the water system.

In both Nampula and Cabo Delgado Provinces, the first areas for implementation, this approach has been well accepted. During a visit in July 2010, it was found that not only had all the communities quickly created Water Committees, with 50% women members (including women as president of the Committee in some cases), but all the necessary funds had been collected before the beginning of construction. A good example of this is the village of Chinde, which collected 5MT from small families and 10MT from large families, all properly registered in the Committee's registry book.



The Chinde Water Committee proudly displays the money they collected and registered for the operation and maintenance of their new water point.

The construction campaign is starting in September 2010, with increased confidence that the community will feel ownership of the water points and will be prepared to assume responsibility for the Operation and Maintenance of the system, allowing for long term sustainability of the system.

## US Embassy Encourages Children in Sofala to Read

In July 2010, *Books for Kids Africa* director Mary Jo Amani traveled to the villages of Vinho, Vunduzi, and Mbulaua in Sofala for three weeks to distribute 1130 high quality children's books to primary school and community library programs, funded in part by a \$6600 U.S. Embassy small grant. *Books for Kids Africa* staff trained teachers in each of the three elementary schools on reading out loud as part of education programs, and to use them in mobile classroom library programs. The mobile school library program of 200 children's books moves from classroom to classroom throughout the day and is a non-graded activity. Teachers are encouraged to rotate around the classroom to talk about the books the students are reading and to engage in conversations about reading in general. In classrooms of 50 – 70 students, this is sometimes the only opportunity students have to interact individually with a teacher. Book bags are provided so that teachers, and sometimes older youths, can borrow books over the weekend.



In addition to the three mobile school libraries in each of the villages with 200 books each, a community lending library program was inaugurated with 200 books and 20 book bags in Vinho. The new community library coordinator, Inez Farnela Sande, immediately formed a group of women interested in learning how to read themselves, as well as to their children. They met on Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> for the first time. Eight women, two men, and several children attended the meeting where Inez read a children's book on animals first in Sena and then in Portuguese. Despite living close to Gorongosa National Park, many residents are unfamiliar with names, descriptions and life patterns of local animals and the books in the library help them learn more. In addition to the women's group and lending program open to all community members, Inez has begun a children's reading out loud program on the weekends and during recess at school.

## MOZAMBICANS PREPARE TO STUDY IN THE U.S

More YES Students Prepare for a Year of Life and Study in the U.S.

Preparing for a year of life and study in the United States was the primary goal of the second annual 2010-2011 Youth Exchange and Study Maputo. 10 outbound and 4 from Maputo incorporating perspective the Ministry of Education Fundação de Lurdes from Ohio.

The participation of the was vital to the orientation-returns led several of edge of American life traveled to different where they lived with



school in their local public school. It gave the participants a unique chance both to experience life of young Americans, and also to share Mozambican culture, their own language and customs, and develop friendships that will last a lifetime. Orientation activities included a meeting with U.S. Ambassador to Mozambique Leslie V. Rowe and sessions on making friends, academic success, self-esteem, extra-curricular activities, support networks, cross-cultural communication, and managing difficult situations with host families.

This year's students are living with volunteer host families in seven different states, including Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana, Missouri, Ohio, Vermont, and Washington.

(YES) orientation August 1 – 6 in YES students, 6 from Nampula Province Province, participated in a program tives from the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, tion, the embassy's programmatic part-Mutola, and a volunteer "host mother"

first 5 Mozambican YES participants tion program's success, as these recent the sessions sharing personal knowl- and education. Last year 5 students parts of the U.S. for an academic year, an American family and attended high

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